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OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE LUCETTA ELMER

For Immediate Release

Date: July 20, 2023

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Representative Lucetta Elmer Celebrates World Brain Day and Urges Oregonians to Support Measures that Improve Healthcare Resources for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury

McMINNVILLE, OR – This Saturday, July 22nd marks the 10th annual celebration of World Brain Day. As announced by the World Federation of Neurology earlier this year, the theme is set to be Brain Health and Disability. In anticipation of the event, Representative Lucetta Elmer (R-McMinnville) released the following statements:

“During the 2023 legislative session, I became acutely aware of how our healthcare system in Oregon is failing to adequately serve individuals impacted by Traumatic Brain Injury. This issue was brought to my attention through the testimony of Dave Nichols, a TBI survivor who testified alongside his mother in support of Senate Bill 420. While I was pleased to see this bill passed to provide essential navigation resources to this population of Oregonians, I know that more work needs to be done.”

“Since 2018, two out of state rehabilitation facilities that provide critical services to individuals impacted by TBI have been stuck in the application/approval process for receiving a Certificate of Need. As of July, one of these facilities, (PAM), has officially removed their application. According to the company’s health attorney they have ‘decided to divert (their) investment funds to states without Oregon’s barriers to innovation in health care.’ This is a disservice to all Oregonians, especially the homeless population which is disproportionately impacted by TBI. By passing HB 3621, we would have begun to eliminate this barrier to access. While the timer ran out on this initiative in the long session, I plan to re-introduce this legislation after further work with stakeholders in the interim.”

[House Bill 3621](#) was Elmer’s priority bill that would have provided rehabilitation facilities with an exemption for the Certificate of Need process. The bill received

bipartisan support but was still in the Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee upon adjournment.

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